

public. The editor has used a wise discretion in omitting phrenological nomenclature, while the essential principles of the doctrines of Gall are retained. It is observed that "in no part of the work is Dr. Combe's wisdom better disclosed than in that which refers to treatment." The soundness and practical nature of his advice will be appreciated by those who will read the book. It is interesting to find him pointing out the importance of providing the inmates of asylums with occupation in connection with the Dundee Asylum, of which Dr Mackintosh was at that time the superintendent, fifty-four years ago. The editor takes pleasure in recording that he is still living and enjoying his repose after a long and distinguished career.

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*Insanity: Its Classification, Diagnosis, and Treatment; a Manual for Students and Practitioners of Medicine.* By E. C. SPITZKA, M.D. New York: E. B. Treat, 1887.

The author states in his preface to this, the second edition of his work after a lapse of four years, that he has in preparation a larger treatise upon a kindred subject in which he will incorporate various suggestions which he has received and for which sufficient room is not permitted within the limits of a manual. Some changes have, however, been made, and among these may be mentioned the adoption of the term *paranoia* in preference to that of *monomania*. As this name has been adopted by Mendel for the favourite German term *verrücktheit*, it is probable that it will come into general use. It cannot be said to have taken root in British soil, and certainly there is nothing in the etymology of the word which makes it distinctive as applied to the classic cases for which it is now used. Dr. Spitzka observes: "If we cast a glance at the earlier literature with reference to the category of patients who are classed as *monomaniacs*, we shall find that the popular mind appreciated in a crude way the distinctiveness of the morbid ideas of such subjects from the ideas of those suffering from other forms of insanity. The English word 'cracked' happily expresses that there is but a flaw and a relative shifting of the elements of the understanding, not a general confusion and an annihilation of them. Where language has been used accurately such patients have neither been termed foolish nor crazy. From distant times the Germans have

employed the expressive term of 'fixe idee' to designate the delusions and projects which are such prominent features of monomania, and which are properly rendered by the word-picture, a 'Bee in the Bonnet'—a 'screw loose.' The noun 'verrücktheit' is derived from the vernacular adjective 'verrückt' (shifted from its place), which is a good metaphorical equivalent of the English 'cracked,' and perhaps a better designation, in so far as it directs attention to the prominent feature of monomania, the mal-association of special mental components" (p. 290). Here, again, the etymology of the word gives no distinctive indication of its meaning, seeing that "shifted from its place" is equivalent to "derangement," the synonym of ordinary and complete insanity.

This edition contains precisely the same number of pages as the former one, but is in a more handy form and is exceedingly well got up. A very short appendix contains the classifications of insanity, which were the result of the Antwerp Congress of Psychiatry. The recently-introduced hypnotic "paraldehyde" is spoken of as a failure in the author's hands, as well as in those of most American physicians. We are surprised at this, and should be disposed to attribute the want of success to an inferior article, as is admitted to be possible by Spitzka. No doubt, as stated by Sommer, its combination with bromide of potassium forms an excellent remedy in insomnia and restlessness.

We have only to repeat the favourable opinion which we expressed of this work when it first appeared.



*Elements of Physiological Psychology: A Treatise on the Activities and Nature of the Mind from the Physical and Experimental Point of View.* By GEORGE T. LADD, Professor of Philosophy in Yale University. London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1887.

The brief but favourable notice of this work in the October number of this Journal requires to be supplemented by an analysis of its contents.

Part I. deals with the nervous mechanism, and gives a complete description of its elements and functions. This section terminates with the consideration of the question, What is the relation of the mind to this mechanism? Can it set such molecular mechanism at work, or can it in any